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Message Text

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14
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /148 W
---------- 107566
O R 160830Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1082
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 7870

E.O. 11652
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK
SUB: BHUTTO ADDRESSES NATION ON EVE OF VISIT TO U.S.

SUMMARY: IN WIDE-RANGING SPEECH MARKING HIS DEPARTURE FOR U.S., PRIMIN BHUTTO SOBERLY DISCUSSED FLOOD DAMAGE AND ANNOUNCED NUMBER OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION MEASURES. HE STRESSED SERIOUS IMPACT ON BUDGET AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS, WHICH HE SAID WOULD REQUIRE CUTS IN DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN EMERGENCY AID. RE DOMESTIC POLITICS, PRIMIN CRITICIZED OPPOSITION BUT OFFERED DISCUSS BALUCHISTAN WITH THEM UPON HIS RETURN FROM U.S. PRIMIN SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON BUT WARNED COUNTRY NOT TO "APPLY TOO SIMPLE A YARDSTICK" TO OUTCOME OF HIS U.S. VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING PRIMIN BHUTTO'S AFTERNOON DEPARTURE FOR AMSTERDAM EN ROUTE U.S., PRE-TAPED SPEECH WAS CARRIED
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ON NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TV EARLY EVENING SEPTEMBER 15.

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PRIMIN SPOKE IN ENGLISH FROM PREPARED TEXT.

2. FIRST PART OF SPEECH DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF FLOOD DISASTER. IN SOMBER TONES BHUTTO DESCRIBED EXTENT OF COUNTRY'S HUMAN, AGRICULTURAL AND INFRA-STRUCTURE LOSSES. RECOUNTING EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO COMBAT THIS DISASTER, HE ANNOUNCED NUMBER OF MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DISTRESS AND BEGIN RECONSTRUCTION -- REMISSION OF LAND TAXES, INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO FARMERS AND HOUSEHOLDERS, ETC. MOST URGENT NEXT TASK, HE STRESSED, WAS TO MAXIMIZE WHEAT PRODUCTION IN FORTHCOMING CROP.

3. WHILE GOVERNMENT DID NOT YET HAVE FINAL REPORT OF NATIONWIDE FLOOD DAMAGE, PRIMIN CONTINUED, VARIOUS BROAD CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN FROM FACTS ON HAND, FLOODS WILL HAVE "SERIOUS IMPACT" ON BUDGETARY POSI-TION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS. ALTHOUGH GOP COMPELLED TO SEEK INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, IT "CANNOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR EXERTION AND SACRIFICE ON OUR OWN PART". GOP IS DETERMINED TO HOLD LINE ON ESSENTIAL DOMESTIC COMMODITY PRICES. THERE MUST ALSO BE FIRM CONTROL ON DEFICIT FINANCING, "SAVINGS WILL HAVE TO BE ENFORCED IN BOTH OUR DEFENSE AND OUR DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES". IN SUM, BHUTTO ASSERTED, "STRICT DISCIPLINE AND RESTRAINT" WERE NECESSARY.

4. PRIMIN THEN ANNOUNCED SEVERAL FISCAL MEASURES GOP WAS PUTTING INTO EFFECT, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL TAXES, IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND ECONOMIES IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE. HE STRESSED THAT THEY WERE "ABNORMAL MEASURES TAKEN TO MEET AN ABNORMAL SITUATION" AND OBSERVED THAT FLOODS HAD CAUSED GREATER DAMAGE TO PAKISTAN THAN WARS OF 1965 AND 1971.

5. ESPECIALLY "HEARTWARMING" WAS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE THAT HAD FLOWED TO PAKISTAN IN WAKE OF FLOOD DISASTER, PRIMIN CONTINUED. "THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN FOREMOST AMONG THE DONORS OF HUMANITARIAN AID" FOLLOWED BY ABU DHABI, SAUDI ARABIA, CANADA, SWEDEN AND CHINA.
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OTHER NATIONS AND UN HAD ALSO HELPED.

6. TURNING TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE, BHUTTO CRITICIZED OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR THEIR NEGATIVE ROLE DURING FLOOD DISASTER, URGED THEM TO CEASE ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE COUNTRY AND INSTEAD COOPERATE IN REHABILITATION. "IT IS TIME FOR THE COUNTRY TO RID ITSELF OF THE BANGLADESH SYNDROME", PRIMIN DECLARED,

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"AND FOR THE OPPOSITION NOT TO FEED ON IT". NOR SHOULD OPPOSITION LOOK TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR SUPPORT. "NO RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN POWER WOULD TAKE UPON ITSELF TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A PROMOTER OF IRREDENTISM".

7. CONTINUING, BHUTTO REFERRRED TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO BALUCHISTAN AND SAID DOOR WAS STILL OPEN TO DIALOGUE WITH NAP OPPOSITION. IF LATTER ACCEPT THIS OFFER, HE DECLARED, "I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTIES IN OPPOSITION AFTER MY RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES".

8. TURNING TO FOREIGN POLICY, BHUTTO LAUDED SIMLA AND DELHI AGREEMENTS AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR "STEADFAST SUPPORT" OF CHINA IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA.

9. CONCLUDING, PRIMIN SAID: "I LOOK FORWARD TO MY DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO OF THE VITAL, INDEED THE CRUCIAL, ROLE THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN PLAY IN MAINTAINING THE STABILITY OF THIS PART OF THE WORLD. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THESE TALKS WILL LEAD TO SALUTARY RESULTS. BU IT WOULD BE A DISSERVICE TO OURSELVES, TO THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE OTHER POWERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DEAL IF WE APPLY TOO SIMPLE A YARDSTICK TO THE OUT-COME OF MY VISIT TO AMERICA". PAKISTAN IS STRIVING FOR PEACE AND HONORABLE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES ON SUBCONTINENT, FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH EACH OF THE GREAT POWERS, FOR UNITY AMONG ISLAMIC STATES, AND FOR A RATIONAL, BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY, HE SAID. COUNTRY IS AWARE OF CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND REALIZES FURTHER CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE, "WE DO NOT ASSUME A POSITION OUT OF TUNE WITH THE TIMES" AND PAKISTAN'S
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CAUSE IS BOUND TO TRIUMPH "UNLESS WE OURSELVES BETRAY IT."
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